

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 24, 2014

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES THAT PROMOTE PERMANENCY

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) data from 2011 through 2013 identified 631 children that reentered the foster care system after a finalized adoption, 27% of which were from South Los Angeles. Children with disrupted adoptions are at an increased risk for poor outcomes in the areas of academic achievement, socio-emotional health, developing insecure attachments, and distress due to instability and uncertainty.

Many evidence-based programs exist that offer interdisciplinary services for adoptive parents and children that help identify children's unique needs, suggest strategies to stabilize and support children and help new families bond and attach. The UCLA TIES (Training, Intervention, Education, and Services) for Families program, for example, is a unique collaboration of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children Families and Communities, the UCLA Psychology Department, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health, and private

- MORE -MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
JUNE 24, 2014
PAGE 2

foundations. A five-year longitudinal study of the UCLA TIES for Families program model found that only 3 of 82 participants (or 4%) experienced a placement disruption. The program is currently based in Torrance and Westwood. It is important that similarly successful programs be accessible throughout the County of Los Angeles.

THEREFORE I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Directors of the Departments of Mental Health and Children and Family Services to report back in 60 days on the following:

1. The geographic countywide availability of programs that promote permanency and stability for adopted children and their families, especially in those service planning areas experiencing higher rates of failed adoptions;
2. An evaluation of the efficacy of those programs; and
3. Options to potentially expand programs that have demonstrated success, whether through increased delivery of field based services or expanded certified providers or sites, and projected costs to expand.

####